

Serial No. 10/045,665

In the Claims:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): Cell culture apparatus comprising a rotor releasably housing a plurality of cell culture vessels/roller bottles and with means provided to allow rotation of the rotor at a controlled speed about a substantially horizontal axis for cell incubation purposes, with further means provided to allow the rotational axis of the rotor and bottles housed therein to be tilted from a substantially horizontal position to a substantially vertical position such that the bottles are in an inverted position with cap ends of the bottles lowermost, each bottle having a body and being provided with a cap on its cap end, each cap being equipped with a fluid supply/drain connection arranged at a lowest point of the cap when the bottle is in the inverted position, a manifold with at least one sealable external connection and a plurality of connections communicating with the fluid supply/drain connection of each bottle cap, each bottle having a snorkel for venting of gas space within the bottle during fluid transfer, each snorkel tube passing upwards through any fluid in its respective bottle when in the inverted position and formed as an internal extension of the cap thereon, each snorkel tube extending into the body of

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its respective bottle and having an end opening into the body of the bottle at a position clear of any fluid in both the bottle in the substantially vertical and horizontal orientations thereof, each snorkel tube being further provided with micro-porous venting means to atmosphere, whereby fluid transfer into or out of the bottles is accomplished via the at least one external connection of the manifold whilst the bottles are in the inverted position.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Cell culture apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which each snorkel tube is arranged to extend substantially along a central longitudinal axis of its respective bottle.

Claim 3 (previously presented): Cell culture apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which each snorkel tube is provided with graduations along a length thereof.

Claim 4 (previously presented): Cell culture apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which an end of each snorkel tube opening into its respective bottle is provided with a fluid trap.

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Claim 5 (previously presented): Cell culture apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which a respective clamp or valve is provided in said manifold between the respective bottle cap fluid supply/drain connections.

Claims 6-9 (cancelled).